

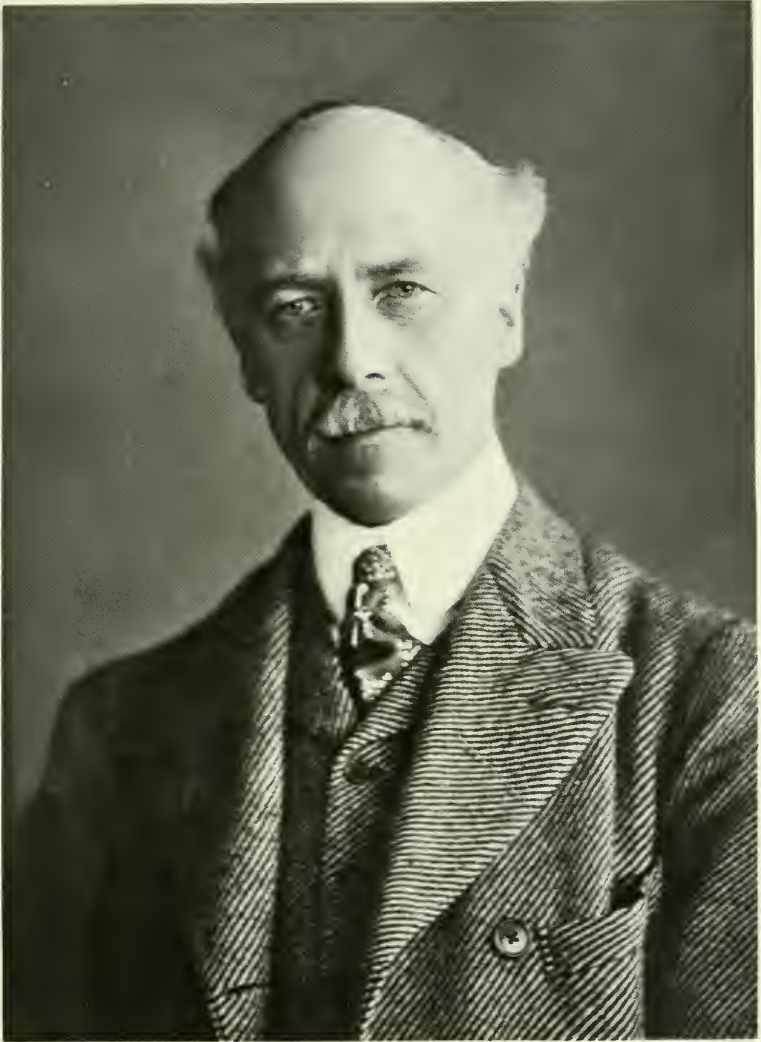
XXVIII.—*Obituary.*

ROBERT GEORGE WARDLAW-RAMSAY. (Pl. VI.)

By the death of Colonel Wardlaw-Ramsay the British Ornithologists' Union has lost an old and highly esteemed member—one who filled the office of President from 1913 to 1918. Colonel Wardlaw-Ramsay was in his 70th year, and had been seriously ill for about a month when he passed away on the 25th of April.

He was the only son of Robert Balfour Wardlaw-Ramsay of Whitehill in Midlothian and Tillicoultry in Clackmannanshire, and his mother was Lady Louisa Hay, a daughter of the Marquis of Tweeddale. He elected to follow a military career, and in November 1872, soon after obtaining his commission, left for India to join the Highland Light Infantry; went through the Afghan campaign as an officer of the Hampshire Regiment; and eventually was Lieut.-Colonel of the 7th Royal Scots. After quitting active service he became Lieut.-Colonel of the Volunteer Battalion of the last-named Regiment, afterwards acted as Lieut.-Colonel of its Territorial Force Reserve; and did much useful service during the late war. The later years of his life were passed at Whitehill, and were devoted to county affairs, in which he took an active part. He was Chairman of the Edinburgh and East of Scotland College of Agriculture, and besides closely associated with charitable work. Though by nature reserved in manner, he was a singularly attractive personality to those who knew him intimately, was a man who lived up to high ideals, and was the personification of all that was honourable and best. He married a daughter of Mr. Charles Swinton Hogg, by whom, as well as three sons and two daughters, he is survived.

Wardlaw-Ramsay was elected a member of the British Ornithologists' Union in 1872. From his boyhood he had always been keenly interested in birds, and commenced to contribute to ornithological literature in 1874, as will be seen from the list of his various papers (so far as



ROBERT GEORGE WARDLAW-RAMSAY

they are known to the writer) which concludes this notice. On the death of his uncle the Marquis of Tweeddale, who was for many years the distinguished President of the Zoological Society, Wardlaw-Ramsay inherited the vast collection of birds formed by that nobleman. This the inheritor generously presented to the British Museum (Natural History), on condition that a set of duplicate specimens was to be sent to the Edinburgh Museum. He also handed over the very valuable ornithological library, which came to him with the collections, to the Museum, on condition it was placed in the bird-room for the use of the officers and students working there. It is now known as the Tweeddale library. In 1881 he edited and revised a memorial volume entitled 'The Ornithological Works of Arthur 9th Marquis of Tweeddale,' a quarto of 760 pages. For several years past Colonel Wardlaw-Ramsay had been engaged upon the preparation of a concise handy volume—an ornithological Baedeker—on the species and races of the Birds of Europe and northern Africa for the use of travellers and others. Though this book was nearing completion, yet a considerable amount of work remained to be done ere it was ready for the press, and shortly before he passed away he requested that the manuscript should be handed unconditionally to the writer of this notice, who hopes to arrange for its completion and publication in due course.

List of Papers.

- Description of a new species of Woodpecker (*Gecinus erythropygus*) from British Burmah. Proc. Zool. Soc. 1874, pp. 212-213.
- Ornithological Notes from the district of Karen-nee, Burmah. Ibis, 1875, pp. 348-353.
- On an undescribed species of Nuthatch (*Sitta magna*) and another bird (*Orocetes erythrogaster*) from Karen-nee. Proc. Zool. Soc. 1876, p. 677.
- Notes on some Burmese Birds. Ibis, 1877, pp. 452-473.
- A Synopsis of the genus *Pomatorhinus*. Ibis, 1878, pp. 129-145.
- Description of a new Oriole from Borneo (*Oriolus consobrinus*). Proc. Zool. Soc. 1879, p. 709.

- Ornithological Notes from Afghanistan (Nos. I. & II.). Ibis, 1879, pp. 444-449; 1880, pp. 45-71.
- Contributions to the Ornithology of Sumatra.—Report on a collection from the neighbourhood of Padang. Proc. Zool. Soc. 1880, pp. 13-16.
- Descriptions of Two New Species of Birds (*Analcipus consanguineus* and *Edoliosoma alterum*). Ibis, 1881, pp. 32-34.
- Descriptions of Two New Species of Birds from Sumatra (*Hemixus sumatranus* and *Criniger sumatranus*). Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. x. 1882, p. 431.
- Catalogue of the Tweeddale collections. Ibis, 1884, p. 123.
- Contributions to the Ornithology of the Philippine Islands:—No. 1. On two collections of Birds from the vicinity of Manila. Ibis, 1884, p. 330.—No. 2. On additional collections of Birds. Ibis, 1886, p. 15.
- On the Columbine genus *Macropygia* and its allies. Ibis, 1890, p. 214.
- On a New Genus of the Order Columbæ. Ibis, 1890, p. 246.

WILLIAM EAGLE CLARKE.

HENRY MORRIS UPCHER.

Henry Morris Upcher, born December 1839, who passed away on April 6, 1921, at his picturesque seat at Sherringham, aged 82, was perhaps better known as an all-round sportsman and shooter of game than as a naturalist. Nevertheless, his predilection for wild animals, which began before he went to Cambridge, was early, and enthusiastic. The eldest of six brothers, only two of whom have survived him, in 1869 Mr. Upcher married Maria, only daughter of Canon Sparke of Feltwell, by whom he had two sons and two daughters. In 1892 he settled at Sherringham, where he contributed largely to the rise and progress of that popular resort by the sea.

An active supporter of all things connected with the county of Norfolk, Mr. Upcher was seldom idle. He was High Sheriff in 1899, D.L. and J.P., was elected to the County Council as alderman in 1901, and served on the committees for the Protection of Wild Birds and Eastern Sea Fisheries, besides assisting the Sea-Coast Erosion Commissioners and working for the Urban Council. Needless

to say, he was a supporter of the Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society, although not an original member, and in 1883-4 was offered and accepted the post of President. When he joined in 1871, this Society was poorly supported and little known, but he lived to see it rise in popularity under the secretaryship of Dr. S. H. Long, and contributed on at least one occasion to its Transactions.

A Fellow of the Zoological Society in 1864, and Member of the British Ornithologists' Union the same year, he was easily senior in both these scientific bodies to any other East Anglian. Of course, he made a point of attending the meetings of the B. O. U. whenever possible, and at the special Jubilee gathering, held in 1908, he was called upon as the oldest surviving elected member to take the chair, when he had the honour of presenting medals to the surviving original members of the Union—Mr. F. D. Godman, Dr. P. L. Sclater, Mr. W. H. Hudleston, and Mr. Percy Godman. The speech with which these presentations were prefaced was a characteristic one, bringing in a reference to Canon Tristram, his fellow-traveller in Palestine, and another to his old college friend Alfred Newton.

Like other naturalists, he took great interest in the visitation of Pallas's Sand-Grouse to this country in 1888, and exhorted his friends to refrain from shooting them. But besides exerting himself in this way he assisted the late Mr. Southwell and the writer of these recollections in compiling a correct list of occurrences—no easy task, for they numbered over eleven hundred for the county of Norfolk alone, besides many more in Suffolk. Unfortunately there was no proof of breeding, although various reports were circulated as to the finding of eggs (see '*Zoologist*,' 1888, p. 454), but only in one instance could it be verified.

A farmer at Pickenham near Swaffham, who ought to have known better, shot a Sand-Grouse as she rose from her three eggs. These he took to Major Applethwaite of that place, from whom and from the late Mr. Partridge this information was obtained. Mr. Southwell enquired into

the affair, and satisfied himself that the record was reliable, but neither he nor Mr. Upcher saw the eggs, which were subsequently broken.

From a sportsman's point of view, Upcher knew everything about game-birds that there was to be known, his special favourite being the Woodcock, of which he had possibly brought down as many to his own gun as any man in England. His home on the coast was, in fact, a point of arrival for Woodcocks, Fieldfares, Redwings, and thousands of other migratory birds which cross the North Sea in October and November. This annual passage takes place by night, when the bulk of the migrants pass, those seen by day being for the most part laggards delayed by contrary winds. An exception must, however, be made for the Corvidæ, which appear to travel at any time, nearly as many passing by day as by night.

The Sherringham game-books have records of the number of Woodcocks for many years, and the following list, extracted from them, which was copied for the present writer by Mr. Upcher himself, may here be given as a specimen of the sport which well-preserved coverts can afford :—

In 1858,	102	were shot	(36 on one day).
„ 1859,	68	„	
„ 1866,	72	„	
„ 1868,	101	„	
„ 1869,	87	„	(35 in one day).
„ 1880,	111	„	
„ 1883,	112	„	
„ 1884,	108	„	
„ 1885,	119	„	

These figures are interesting when compared with returns made from other parts of Norfolk and Suffolk.

More than once pied varieties came under Mr. Upcher's notice, and in 1868 a melanism was shot near Sherringham, which is now in the Natural History Museum.

Mr. Upcher's name is commemorated in *Hypolais upcheri*,

named by Tristram after his travelling companion, and obtained during their journey in Palestine; he was also the original discoverer of *Passer moabiticus*, which was only met with by the party on the eastern side of the Dead Sea, and is still a scarce bird in collections.

J. H. GURNEY.

JOHN BURROUGHS.

John Burroughs, who died 29 March last, within a few days of his eighty-fourth birthday, was to America what Gilbert White was to England. In natural history and in literature Burroughs covered a wider field than White, but both aroused in their readers an interest in the everyday life of garden, field, and forest about their homes.

'Wake Robin,' Burroughs' first book, was published about 1870, and his final work 'Accepting the Universe' appeared in the last year of his life. In 1871 he made a short visit to England, and the results of his observations here are recorded in 'Winter Sunshine' under the heading "An October Abroad." Some years later he made a longer stay in this country and devoted a volume, 'Fresh Fields,' to describing his impressions of England and its bird-life.

Although in no sense a technical naturalist, Burroughs was a careful and accurate observer, and his facility of expression gave to his essays a literary quality which won for him a much larger audience than is reached by the purely scientific writer. For this reason he exerted a profound influence in developing in America that interest in nature, and particularly birds, which has been so potent a factor in securing the passage and enforcement of laws protecting wild life in that country.

Mr. Burroughs was the leader in the movement against what, in America, is called "nature faking," and, joined by Mr. Roosevelt, he succeeded in bringing into disrepute that class of writers who, sacrificing truth for gain, presented fiction as fact and attributed to animals an intelligence they are far from possessing.

Mr. Burroughs won disciples not only by the power of

his pen, but by his lovable personality, which gained for him thousands of friends. His home "Riverby" on the Hudson River, with its cabin-study "Slabsides" in the adjoining hills, and his summer retreat "Woodchuck Lodge," at his birthplace in the Catskills, were yearly visited by hundreds of his followers. It is gratifying to learn that within a month of his death a Memorial Association was organized and incorporated to acquire these places which are so closely associated with Burroughs' life and works, and to preserve them as shrines for those who, in succeeding years, will know John Burroughs only through the written words which form his legacy to the world.

XXIX.—*Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.*

Bangs and Penard on American Birds.

[Notes on some American Birds, chiefly Neotropical. By Outram Bangs and Thomas E. Penard. Bull. Mus. Comp. Zoöl. Cambridge, Mass. lxiv. 1921, pp. 365-397.]

An important systematic paper in which two new genera, one new species, and five new races are proposed, while a number of species and subspecies are reviewed, involving changes and corrections in nomenclature and synonymy.

The new genera are *Cometornis* (perilously near *Cosmetornis* in our opinion) to take the place of *Lophotriccus*, with type *Todirostrum squamacrista* Lafres., and *Muscifur* near *Myiarchus* for type *M. semirufus* Scf. & Salv. The new species is *Cometornis vitiosus* from Peru, based on an old Lafresnaye specimen dating from early in the last century!

Beebe on the Pheasants.

[A Monograph of the Pheasants. By William Beebe. Vol. ii. pp. xv+269; 24 col. pls., 24 photogr., 5 maps. London (Witherby for the New York Zoological Society), 1921. 4to.]

The long-expected second volume of Mr. Beebe's great